

\$34.3 MILLION PROJECT TO IMPROVE SAFETY & CONGESTION AT I-64/KY 180 INTERCHANGE

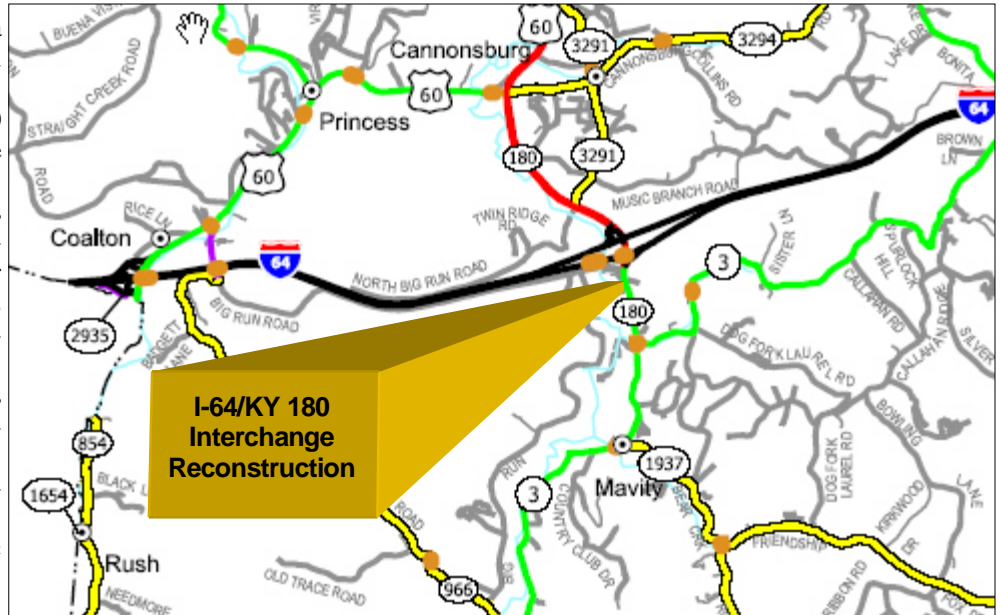
Ground was broken in June on a \$34.3 million project to improve a major interchange in Boyd County. Motorists traveling near the I-64/KY 180 will notice major improvements to the busy intersection in the near future.

"Investing in safe and reliable roads for the commonwealth lays the foundation for a brighter future," said Governor Fletcher. "A vibrant economy depends on a modern highway network that supports healthy growth and development. Every dollar we spend to improve roads and infrastructure in Kentucky will result in increased returns."

Officials say the project will modernize the surrounding infrastructure, increasing safety and allowing economic growth.

"As our nation's interstate system turns 50 years old this year, we are reminded of the importance of having an accessible network of modern highways," said Transportation Cabinet Secretary Bill Nighbert. "Safe and reliable highways are the key to economic success. Governor Fletcher is committed to improving our highway network to better serve every Kentuckian."

"This project is very good news for the thousands of motor-



ists who travel through this area each day," said Senator Charlie Borders (R-Russell). "These improvements are going to make this interchange safer, while at the same time ensuring that a growing and vibrant economy is fostered by a first-class highway."

The contract includes the reconstruction of the interchange, as well as sight distance improvements on KY 180 south of the I-64 junction.

"Reconstructing this interchange is vitally important to the surrounding area," said Commissioner Marc Williams of the cabinet's Department of Highways. "In pushing this project forward, we are following Governor Fletcher's vision to provide a safe and reliable transportation system for all Kentuckians. This project will have a profoundly positive impact for motorists."

Recent traffic counts indicate the intersection is highly traveled. In 2005, I-64 at KY 180 had an average daily traffic count of 22,100 vehicles, and KY 180 near the interchange had an average daily count of 14,389 vehicles.

"Our counts reflect the increased traffic volume associated with the economic development in this area," said Katrina O. Bradley, chief district engineer for District 9 of the Department of Highways. "This major reconstruction project will improve safety for motorists traveling on I-64 and KY 180."

Work is scheduled to be complete by the fall of 2008.



Also at the event, Governor Ernie Fletcher presented a \$1,000,000 check to Boyd County officials for preliminary studies and design of a new route from I-64 to downtown Ashland.